

LIBRARY
OCT 1945

Featherstone
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

2nd
Medical

Officer of Health

1945

Featherstone
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical

Officer of Health

1945

FEATHERSTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL—1945

Chairman : Cr. Edward Rowley, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Cr. Albert Hollis

Cr. Frank Banks, J.P.

Cr. Alan Booth

Cr. Aaron Evans, J.P.

Cr. John B. Fennell

Cr. William Griffiths

Cr. Harry E. Hartington

Cr. Thomas Morgan

Cr. William H. Roberts

Cr. Abraham T. Thatcher

Cr. Henry Woodcock

Clerk of the Council : Raymond William Bainton, F.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health : John Duncan, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : John Hilsley, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : Claremont H. Seal, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF
FEATHERSTONE
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1945

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you the Annual Report on the health of your District for the year ended 31st December 1945, along with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. Hilsley).

This year in which the Second World War ended, was unmarred by serious Epidemic Diseases in contrast to the Influenza Pandemic of 1918.

In the early part of the year however we experienced an outbreak of Epidemic Diarrhoea throughout the District. The incidence of the Disease was widespread and amongst all sections and age groups of the community. There were no fatalities but it was the cause of ill-health and misery to those afflicted. The cause of the outbreak despite careful pathological investigation was unexplained.

In my opinion it was in all probability one of the Virus Diseases. In my work as a General Practitioner I again have the impression of increased incidence of ill-health amongst our people owing to the abnormal circumstances of War and the after-math of War. Diseases of the Skin, Fatigue of the Nervous System and Digestive Diseases were all prevalent.

After full enquiry it was not found possible to institute a District Nursing Service, but the institution of such a service is a constant and urgent need in our Locality.

Under the widening scope of Medical and Nursing Service envisaged in the New Health Bill it is hoped that this need will be met.

POPULATION. The population for 1945, as given to me by the Registrar General, is 12,540, an increase of 70 on the previous year.

The size of the Sanitary Area is 4,425 acres and contains 3487 houses, giving a census of 3.5 per house.

During the year no new houses have been erected, but work was begun on the Purston Housing Estate with an objective of 40 Temporary Houses and 188 Permanent Houses.

RATEABLE VALUE—

April 1945, £50752

1d Rate (Gross) equals£211. 9. 4

1d Rate (Net) equals£196. 1. 1

General Rate laid April 1945£47,052.12. 9

OUT RELIEF (PUBLIC ASSISTANCE). The total cost of Relief from 1st April 1945 to 31st March 1946 was £5384/3/7 (50 men, 75 women, 64 children—total 189 people).

WATER USED—

Half-year to March 1945...37,172,000 gallons costing £2595.16.10

Half-year to Sept. 1945...38,223,000 gallons costing £2802.14. 0

Average cost per 1000 gallons—16.76 pence plus 5%

RAINFALL DURING 1945—

January	...	1.40 inches
February	...	1.63 inches
March	...	0.52 inches
April	...	1.40 inches
May	...	2.78 inches
June	...	2.67 inches
July	...	1.36 inches
August	...	2.08 inches
September	...	1.15 inches
October	...	2.93 inches
November	...	0.30 inches
December	...	1.50 inches

19.72 inches

The wettest month was October with 2.93 inches, and the driest month was November with 0.30 inches. There were 247 days during the year when no rain fell.

BIRTH RATE. 273 Live Births were registered during the year (137 males and 136 females), 5 males and 9 females being illegitimate. In addition to the Live Births there were 7 Still Births (one illegitimate).

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 21.8 and a Still Birth Rate of 0.56.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1945 was 16.1, and the Still Birth Rate 0.46.

DEATH RATE. Total Deaths during the year were 142 (91 males and 51 females) giving a Death Rate of 11.3.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is measured by the proportion of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Registered Births. The total Deaths under 1 year was 11 and the total Live Births 273, giving an Infantile Mortality of 40.

The Infantile Mortality figure for England and Wales during 1945 was 46.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE. The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases—Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Measles (1), Diphtheria (2), Enteric Fever, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea under 2 years (2)—amounted to 5, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.39.

The following Table shows the number of Infectious Cases notified to me during the year 1945 :—

	Notified	Deaths
Typhoid	...	-
Scarlet Fever	... 19	-
Diphtheria	... 36	2
Erysipelas	... 3	-
Whooping Cough	... 26	-
Measles	... 429	1
Pneumonia	... 29	7
Puerperal Fever	... 1	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever	... -	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	... -	-
Dysentery	... 7	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	... -	2
	<hr/> 550	<hr/> 12

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1945

			Male	Female
Typhoid	...	...	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1	-
Scarlet Fever	...	...	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	2	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	2	2
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	1	1
Syphilis	...	...	-	1
Influenza	...	...	-	2
Measles	...	...	1	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
Cancer of Mouth, Gullet & Uterus	...	...	2	1
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	...	...	3	2
Cancer of Breast	...	...	-	4
Cancer (all other sites)	...	...	8	3
Diabetes	...	...	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	11	4
Heart Disease	...	...	23	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	1	-
Bronchitis	...	...	7	2
Pneumonia	...	...	5	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	2	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2	-
Appendicitis	...	...	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	3	1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	-	1
Premature Births	...	...	1	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries etc.	...	...	1	1
Suicide	...	...	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	1	-
Other Violent Causes	...	...	6	1
All Other Causes	...	...	4	4
			91	51

CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1945

CAUSES	All Ages	Un- der 1yr	1-2 yrs	2-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15- 25 yrs	25- 45 yrs	45-60 yrs	Over 60 yrs
Typhoid ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Syphilis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Influenza ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Ant. Poliomyelitis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer of—									
Mouth, Gullet & Uterus	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Stomach & Duodenum	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Breast ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
All others ...	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	8
Diabetes ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular									
Lesions ...	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	11
Heart Diseases ...	35	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	30
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis ...	9	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	5
Pneumonia ...	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	4
Other Resp. Diseases ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ulcer of Stomach & Duod.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Nephritis ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Premature Births ...	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformality, Birth Injuries etc. ...	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Road Accidents ...	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Violence ...	7	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	4
All Other Causes ...	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
Totals	142	11	1	4	3	4	9	27	84

The following, expressed as percentages, were the principal Causes of Death during 1945—

Heart Disease	... 22%
Cancer	... 16%
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	... 11%
Bronchitis	... 6%
Pneumonia	... 5%
Tuberculosis	... 4%

STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING 1945

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained Cases removed
to Hospital

-	Smallpox	
19	Scarlet Fever	
36	Diphtheria (and Membraneous Croup)	
-	Typhoid	
29	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	
1	Puerperal Fever	
-	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
-	Acute Polio-Myelitis	
-	Acute Polio Encephalitis	
7	Dysentery	
-	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
3	Erysipelas	
13	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases)	
3	Other Forms Tuberculosis (new cases)	
-	Malaria (contracted in this country)	
-	Malaria (contracted abroad)	
429	Measles	
26	Whooping Cough	
-	Smallpox	
19	Scarlet Fever	
36	Diphtheria	
-	Enteric Fever	
7	Dysentery	
2	Other Diseases (Measles)	

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1945

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulm.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 and under 10	...	2	-	1	1	-	1	-
10 and under 15	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 and under 20	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20 and under 35	...	4	6	-	-	1	-	-
35 and under 45	...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 and under 55	...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 and under 65	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	6	2	1	2	1	1	1

Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
On Register 1 Jan. 1945	...	54	41	36	40	90	81
Added during year	...	7	6	2	1	9	7
Totals		61	47	38	41	99	88
Removed from Register during 1945	...	6	7	2	2	8	9
On Register 31 Dec. 1945	...	55	40	36	39	91	79

Reasons for Removal of Cases from Tuberculosis Register

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F
Died	...	5	3	1	1
Recovered	...	-	2	-	1
Revision of Diagnosis	...	1	2	-	-
Left District	...	-	-	1	-
Totals		6	7	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS. The incidence of Tuberculosis fell during the year. 16 new cases were notified during 1945 as opposed to 28 in 1944. There were 5 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

The Death Rate for Tuberculosis was 0.39.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PREVENTION

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Every effort has been made by the Council to increase the number of children immunised against Diphtheria during 1945. The National Campaign was augmented by a Local one, of Press, Poster, and Film Publicity, in which full use was made of facilities offered by the Ministry. All Schools have been visited (9 in all). I should again like to take this opportunity of thanking the Head Teachers and their Staffs for their whole-hearted co-operation in this work and for rendering every possible assistance at the sessions held at schools. In addition, immunisation has been carried out at special sessions at the Child Welfare Clinics, and by the Doctors at their own surgeries.

During the year, 237 children were immunised. It is estimated that 54.5% of children under 5, and 80% of children between 5 and 15 are now immunised in this District.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. 102 Primary Vaccinations were performed during 1945 showing that 36% of the children born alive were protected.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES INCIDENCE. Cases treated in Isolation Hospital. 19 Scarlet Fever, 36 Diphtheria, 7 Dysentery, and 2 Measles cases, were sent to Isolation Hospital. Two Deaths occurred in the Isolation Hospital, both from Diphtheria.

The cost for Hospital Maintenance during the year was as follows—

			£	s	d
Scarlet Fever	...	977 days	...	203	2 5
Diphtheria	...	1254 days	...	257	6 9
Dysentery	...	236 days	...	50	1 6
Measles	...	71 days	...	18	12 9
			<hr/>		
			2538 days	£529	3 5
			<hr/>		

CANCER. 23 Deaths occurred during the year, 13 being males and 10 females, showing that 16% of the total deaths were due to this disease. This figure shows an increase as compared with 1944. Comparable figures for 1944 were 19 deaths, 12 males and 7 females, 14% of total deaths.

VENEREAL DISEASE. 14 new cases attended at the V.D. Clinic, Wakefield, for treatment and 5 of these cases proved to be V.D. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for this information.

SCABIES. 159 cases of Scabies were treated at the First Aid Post and the Decontamination Centre during 1945, as opposed to 207 cases treated in 1944. With the dismantling of the First Aid Post and the discharge of the First Aid Post Workers, the site was transferred to the Decontamination Centre, Post Office Road, on Oct. 2nd, 1945. Staffing and technical difficulties have reduced the work of the Centre although incidence of Scabies has declined during the year.

VERMINOUS HEADS. The number of verminous heads treated at the Featherstone School Clinic was 26.

AMBULANCE SERVICES. 1068 journeys were made by the two Ambulances during 1945. The total mileage covered was 11,164. These figures show the extreme value to the community of these services, and the work of drivers and attendants is worthy of high commendation.

HOUSING AND PRIVATE STREETS. Both were in abeyance during the year, with the exception of the preparation of the New Housing Site at Purston, where roads and sewers were almost completed by the year end.

WATER SUPPLY. Our water supply is good, and all the houses in this district, with the exception of one, are connected with the Public Water Supply. The cost per 1000 gallons was 16.76 pence plus 5%.

NEW MAIN. During the year the laying of a New 7" Water Main across Country from Halfpenny Lane to Houndhill Lane was carried out under the supervision of the Water Inspector. By this work the inadequacy of the Water Supply to Houndhill Lane and the extreme end of Ackworth Road has been largely remedied.

DRAINAGE. With the exception of Ackton Wood Pastures, the drainage and the two Sewage Farms are satisfactory.

SCAVENGING. The collection and disposal of House Refuse is done entirely by the Council workmen, and efficiently. Metal-covered Refuse Carts are essential for this work. Tarpaulin covers which had on occasion to be resorted to, owing to supply difficulty, are insanitary and unsatisfactory. All Dust Bins awaiting collection should be covered.

During the year, 1324 loads were removed to the Destructor. 2591 loads were taken to the tips, and 2525 loads of liquid were removed from Cesspools to farm land. The cost of collection and disposal for the year amounts to £4346/10/1.

We still have 51 Cesspools in this area, mostly associated with detached houses and Ackton Wood Pastures. The cost in wages alone in giving attention to these Cesspools was £398/5/6.

It is a matter of concern that very little improvement in the conditions of sanitation in certain housing groups is recorded. We still have —

- 3008 Water and Waste Water Closets
- 30 Pail Closets
- 344 Privies
- 199 Wet Ashpits
- 301 Dry Ashpits
- 3008 Dust Bins.

Until it is possible to deal radically with this situation, we cannot feel that the best interests of Public Health are being served, and it is deplorable that no real progress can be reported in this serious state of affairs.

We have 88.5% of the houses in this area on the water carriage system.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS. During the year the Sanitary Inspector and I have visited the spoilbanks in the area. The problem of Control of Smoke and Fumes from the stacks is one of great difficulty, and is probably best dealt with by a combination of the methods of damping down and earthing of the stacks' surfaces. Both these methods are in operation in our District. As regards the problem of wind-borne grit and dust from the stacks, this is to some extent reduced by tight packing of the refuse.

A point of some interest in connection with the older stacks is the binding of the surface of these by vegetation. The rapid growth and spread of suitable varieties of plants (e.g., the growth of Lupins at Snydale) is an effective method of dealing with the problem.

Mr. Hilsley's report is incorporated. His Department has worked smoothly and efficiently throughout the year, despite many additional burdens and difficulties. I am grateful for his loyal help and advice at all times. Miss Walker and Mr. Seal have been of great assistance to me in the compilation of records and statistics, and I am indebted to them both.

There are 3 centres for Child Welfare, 1 centre for Ante-Natal Supervision, and 1 centre for Toddlers. All are well attended under the care and supervision of the Clinic Medical Officer and County Nurses. Your thanks are again due to the Ladies' Voluntary Committee for the very valuable assistance they have given throughout the year, in this important branch of Child Welfare.

4 Certified Midwives were engaged throughout the year.

In conclusion, I earnestly thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the Members of the Council, for the support given to me on all occasions, and for the very real interest and help I have received at your hands.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN DUNCAN, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health

**URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF
FEATHERSTONE**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1945

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Nineteenth Annual Report for the year 1945; an interim report with curtailed statistical information. It is hoped that a Report will be submitted in due course dealing fully with the war period.

WATER SUPPLY. Your water supply is purchased in bulk from the Wakefield Corporation and is distributed to the various parts of your district via two covered storage reservoirs, and supply mains. Only one house in your area is without a piped supply. The water is abundant, pure and wholesome, and of a soft nature.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE. There are still 344 privy closets and 30 pail closets in the area, and as soon as circumstances permit every effort should be made to secure conversion of these to water closets. With the exception of remote parts of your District the area is sewered, the sewers dis-

charging to two sewage works, one at South Featherstone and one at Old Snydale. Of the localities not sewered Ackton Wood Pastures has the greatest number of houses, and here the sewage is discharged into cesspools which demand constant emptying, a very unsatisfactory and costly business.

Your two Sewage Works have given satisfactory service and no complaints have been received of the effluents. At both works, signs of subsidence are evident, which makes the running of the works more difficult.

SCAVENGING is done by direct labour and has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 7156 tons. Of this quantity, 2760 tons were incinerated at the Destructor Works, 100 tons were recovered as salvage and 4296 tons disposed of by tipping. In addition 2525 loads of liquid from cesspools were disposed of on farm land.

SALVAGE of materials of further use was carried out during the year, and the following materials were salvaged and sold—

tons	cwts	qrs	lbs		£	s	d
32	3	3	-	Waste Paper	205	3	10
37	8	-	-	Kitchen Waste	56	2	9
4	18	-	-	Heavy Scrap Metal	14	14	0
4	1	-	-	Light Scrap Metal	3	10	10
10	9	-	-	Broken Glass	11	12	4
1	6	3	13	Rags, Bagging & String	17	14	6
-	14	3	16	Bones	3	2	10
-	1	-	27	Aluminium	1	4	9
-	1	-	14	Zinc		11	7
-	3	3	19	Lead	2	0	1
-	-	2	20	Brass		11	4
-	-	2	8	Copper		16	8
-	-	1	-	Rubber Tyres		10	0
8	10	1	26	1739 doz. Bottles & Jars	46	13	11
99	19	3	3		£364	9	5

NUISANCES. 547 nuisances were discovered, the majority of which were abated as the result of informal action. 3 Statutory notices were served and complied with.

REGULATED TRADES. Only one "offensive trade" is established in your District, that of tripe boiler. This was operated during the year without nuisance.

FACTORIES. The term "Factory" is comprehensive and includes premises large and small where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain. Your district has in the past had to rely on coal mining to provide the livelihood of the majority of the inhabitants although there were a number of small "factories," e.g., Mineral Water Works, Garages, Bakehouses etc. During the year two new factories have opened out, one a clothing factory, and the other a food products factory, both of which promise to develop to the benefit of the township.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION. During the year 37 premises were baited (prebait and poison) against rats. Most of these were small infestations, but at one of these premises no fewer than 60 dead rats were picked up. The Council's refuse tip was also periodically baited and the sewers were treated during the month of June.

HOUSING. No new houses were erected during the year, but work was commenced in the development of a new housing site at Purston by the laying of roads, sewers and water main.

One of our most pressing problems is the provision of new houses. There are a large number of married couples, some with children, living in lodgings. A good number of these are living in houses which are statutorily overcrowded, and a surprisingly large number are so situated as to render the proper separation of the sexes impossible.

We have also a number of houses at Streethouse which have been scheduled for demolition. It is most difficult to obtain even the slightest repairs to this class of property, with the result that the houses are now in a very bad state indeed, and the provision of other accommodation for the occupants of this property is now a very urgent matter.

Routine inspections of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations were not carried out during the year, but inspections were made on receipt of complaints. 68 houses were dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and of these, 47 were rendered fit after Informal Notices. 7 Statutory Notices were served, all of which were complied with.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting housing defects remedied, mostly on account of the shortage of labour and materials, and partly by the willingness of some people to take advantage of the excuse offered by this shortage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. By the Centralisation of Slaughtering by the Ministry of Food, the slaughter of animals for food in your area is confined to pigs slaughtered for private pigkeepers, but considerable activity is called for in the inspection of "other foods." During the year the following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption—

Eggs	...	304
Butter	...	35 lbs.
Bacon and Ham	...	63 lbs.
Jam	...	48 lbs.
Tinned & Untinned Meat		1110 lbs.
Soup	...	1 tin
Tinned Peas	...	3 tins
Fruit	...	24 lbs.
Kippers	...	28 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	15 tins
Pickles	...	6 jars
Rice Custard Puddings	...	22 tins
Dried Parsley	...	2 lbs.
Gravy Browning	...	1 Quart
Substitute Custard Powder	...	55 lbs.
Pea Flour	...	22 lbs.

CONCLUSION. I beg to tender my best thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, to my staff, and to my brother officials for their help, and to you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your support during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HILLSLEY

Chief Sanitary Inspector

